

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 4 are amended. Support for the amendments may be found, for example, in paragraphs [0024] and [0034]. No new matter is added. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims at least in light of the following remarks.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0160690 to Miyazawa et al. (Miyazawa). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Miyazawa fails to disclose each and ever feature recited in claim 1. For example, Miyazawa fails to disclose "wherein an area of the edge shape on a surface of the plastic material is determined prior to the step of forming the lens member and said lens member forming step forms a curved surface shape on the plastic material so that a geometric center of the edge shape positions at a geometric center of the plastic material and the geometric center of the plastic material does not match an optical center of the spectacle lens," as recited in claim 1.

The Office Action asserts that Fig. 5(a) of Miyazawa discloses a forming step positioning a point L1 to correspond with a machine center MC of the lens forming apparatus and that the machine center MC corresponds to a geometric center of the plastic material from which the lens is formed. The Office Action further asserts that the point L1 (which is the point located at the center of the pupil when the lens is in the frame (see Miyazawa, paragraph [0082])) corresponds to the geometric center of the edge shape recited in claim 1.

However, Miyazawa discloses off-setting an optical center OC from a machine center MC during a polishing step and that the machine center MC corresponds to a geometric center of the surface to be machined (see Miyazawa, paragraphs [0085-0088] and step 405).

The polishing step of Miyazawa is performed on a previously formed lens member with a curved surface (see Miyazawa, Figs. 5a and 5b and step 404). Therefore, the polishing step in which the optical center OC is off-set occurs after the lens forming step. Furthermore, the Office Action agrees that the optical center and the geometric center of the surface to be machined are aligned in Figs. 5a and 5b of Miyazawa. In contrast, claim 1 requires that the geometric center of the plastic material does not match an optical center of the spectacle lens during the lens-forming step.

Moreover, Miyazawa fails to even disclose that an area of the edge shape of the plastic material is determined prior to the step of forming the lens member as required in claim 1. Without such a step, the method in Miyazawa would not be able to form the lens member so that the position the geometric center of the plastic material to be machined does not match the optical center of the formed optical surface. Thus, claim 1 is patentable over Miyazawa.

Claim 4 is amended to recite "wherein an area of the edge shape on a surface of the plastic material is determined prior to processing both surfaces of the lens blank to be curved, so that a geometric center of the blank does not match an optical center of the spectacle lens and the geometric center of the lens blank matches with a frame center of the edge shape to be processed." Miyazawa does not disclose these features recited in claim 4.

Claims 2, 3, and 5 depend from independent claim 1. Therefore, these claims are also patentable at least for their dependence on claim 1 as well as for the additional features that these claims recite.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-5 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Brian K. Kauffman
Registration No. 63,199

JAO:BKK/mcp

Attachment:

Request for Continued Examination

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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